

HECB Legislative Issues: 2005 Status Report

Reflects status of legislation as of April 4, 2005

Issue	HECB Perspective	Legislative Status
Operating and capital budgets	<p>The HECB in December 2004 recommended a \$400 million operating enhancement for higher education. The board supports the capital priorities identified by the two-year and four-year institutions.</p>	<p>The Senate last week approved operating and capital budgets – both of which represent amended versions of the proposals issued earlier by Governor Gregoire – and the House Appropriations Committee chair, Rep. Helen Sommers, is scheduled to release her proposal on April 6. Details of the proposals are described under Tab 4. The operating budget bill is SB 6090; the capital budget is SB 6094.</p> <p>The House's proposed budget is expected to reflect the input of an Appropriations subcommittee that met during January and February to consider a variety of K-12 and higher education financing alternatives.</p>
Branch campuses	<p>The HECB approved its recommendations on Jan. 27, regarding future development of the state's four research university branch campuses.</p> <p>The recommendations are contained in the report titled, "The Future of Washington's Branch Campuses," which was distributed to all legislators and many interested parties.</p>	<p>Slightly different versions of HB 1794 have been approved by the House and the Senate Ways and Means Committee to guide future branch campus developments. The differences are described in Appendix A.</p> <p>Earlier in the session, Governor Gregoire endorsed the recommendations of the HECB.</p> <p>The budgets approved by the Senate and proposed by Governor Gregoire would allocate funds for freshmen and sophomore enrollments beginning 2005-06 to WSU Vancouver. The operating budgets also would provide planning funds to WSUV and the UW Tacoma.</p>
Confirmation of HECB members	<p>Several members of the HECB await confirmation by the state Senate.</p>	<p>The Senate P-16 committee has recommended confirmation by the full Senate of the following HECB members: Jesus Hernandez, Herb Simon, Sam Smith, and Mike Worthy. Other board members whose confirmations are pending are Bill Grinstein, Anthony Rose, and Betti Shelton.</p>

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CTC applied baccalaureate degree pilot projects	The HECB has recognized the issuance of four-year applied baccalaureate degrees by community and technical colleges as one of many options to expand student access to bachelor's degree programs.	The Legislature is expected to address the applied baccalaureate pilot project issue in HB 1794 , which is described in Appendix A. The House version calls for three pilot projects, to be selected by the SBCTC, with final approval by the HECB. The Senate Ways and Means Committee version calls for four projects, also selected by the SBCTC and approved by the HECB. The Ways and Means Committee reversed a decision by the Senate P-16 Committee that would have required one of the pilot projects be provided by a technical college.
Education finance studies	The HECB has endorsed a comprehensive study of the financing of the state's education system.	House and Senate committees have endorsed Governor Gregoire's proposal (HB 1380 and SB 5441) to study the state's early learning, K-12 and higher education systems, and the Senate budget includes \$1.7 million in project funding. The higher education study would address financing options, enrollment distribution, tuition and financial aid, instructional costs, K-12-to-higher education transitions, and other issues.
Financial aid fund management	The HECB supports making maximum use of financial aid funds for their intended purposes.	For the fourth consecutive year, the House has passed legislation (HB 1100) to establish a financial aid account in which unspent funds would be retained for the following year. In 2002, Governor Locke vetoed similar legislation. In 2003 and 2004, similar House-passed measures have died in the Senate. This year's bill awaits action by the full Senate.
Promise Scholarship program	The HECB administers the Promise Scholarship program and supports expanded funding for student awards.	Legislation proposed by former Governor Locke to expand the Promise Scholarship program was not approved by either higher education committee; and the Senate budget would eliminate the program after the HECB provides second-year grants to students who graduated from high school in 2004.
Financial aid for part-time college students		The Senate P-16 committee has amended the House-passed version of HB 1345 to establish a HECB pilot project to provide the State Need Grant to a limited number of students who enroll in college for the equivalent of at least four credits per quarter. Students are currently required to enroll for a minimum of six credits. The bill awaits action in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

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Foster youth education	The HECB generally supports efforts to expand higher education opportunities for students who have been in foster care.	HB 1050 has been passed the House to establish a foster care endowed scholarship administered by the HECB, in conjunction with other organizations. Two other bills are moving forward: HB 1079 and SB 5084 would establish a multi-agency committee, including the HECB, to coordinate state education and job training programs for foster youth.
Tuition waiver study		The Senate P-16 committee has endorsed HB 1986 to direct the HECB to review current tuition waivers and recommend priorities for waivers in the future by December 1, 2005. The House passed the bill unanimously.
Resident tuition rates for undocumented students	The HECB works with colleges to administer legislation enacted in 2003, to make certain undocumented students eligible for resident tuition rates.	The House Higher Education Committee has not acted on HB 1191 , which would clarify that students who hold non-immigrant visas (which require a commitment from the student to retain his or her foreign resident status) are not eligible for resident tuition rates in Washington.
Guaranteed Education Tuition	The GET Committee, chaired by the HECB executive director, has recommended several changes to the state pre-paid tuition law.	The House and Senate have unanimously passed identical bills (HB 2021 and SB 5926) to authorize to permit new GET enrollments when either the purchaser or beneficiary is a Washington resident, and to make other administrative improvements. The proposal will be forwarded to the governor once the same bill has cleared both chambers.
College in the high school	The HECB supports expanding “dual-credit” programs that grant students credit toward high school and college graduation.	Legislation requested by former Governor Locke (HB 1076 and SB 5076) to establish the College in the High School program in state law was endorsed by the House Higher Education Committee but not by the Senate P-16 committee. The proposal appears to be dead for this session.
Running Start student eligibility	The HECB supports expanding “dual credit” programs that provide students credit toward both high school and college graduation.	The Senate has passed SB 5360 , which originally would have limited participation in Running Start to students who earn the state Certificate of Academic Achievement. The amended bill, which awaits action by the full House, calls for a study of the Running Start program.

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Academy of Sciences		The House is considering legislation passed unanimously by the Senate (SB 5381) to develop an independent state academy of sciences to assess public policy questions at the request of the governor.
Affirmative action in college admissions	The HECB supports the limited use of affirmative action criteria in student admission policies at public four-year colleges and universities.	The Senate has not acted on legislation (SB 5575) endorsed by its P-16 committee to permit the public baccalaureate schools to consider race, ethnicity and national origin in admitting students. It bars quotas, set-asides or point values for affirmative action considerations. If enacted, the bill would be submitted as a referendum to the people at the next general election.
Statewide student association	HB 3103, enacted in 2004, established a priority for the HECB to serve as an advocate on behalf of students.	Legislation (HB 2107 and SB 5971) requested by the Washington Student Lobby to establish a statewide, permanently funded student association has not received consideration by the full House or Senate and appears to be dead for the session. Nor has the House acted on an amended version that would have directed the HECB to study the proposal.

The Future of Washington’s Branch Campuses
HECB Recommendations and Legislative Status as of April 4, 2005

All Campuses	HECB recommendations	E2SHB 1794 – As passed House, 3/11/05	E2SHB 1794 – Changes approved 4/1/05, by Senate Ways and Means
Governance	Remain affiliated with UW or WSU.	Same as HECB.	
Upper-division and graduate	Expand upper-division and graduate programs.	Expansion of programs for transfer and graduate students is “the top priority” for each campus.	
Funding	Each campus should be funded within the regional university model.	Costs are affected by institution size, program mix, and the proportion of students in lower- and upper-division and graduate programs. Over time, branches should be funded “more similarly” to regional universities.	
UW Tacoma			
Freshman-sophomore admissions	Beginning fall 2007, admit freshmen and sophomores under “gradual and deliberate” plan submitted to HECB.	Same as HECB.	Clarifies freshman/sophomore admissions are in addition to authority to offer lower-division courses.
Lower-division courses and programs	Offer selected lower-division courses as discussed in university self-study.	Beginning fall 2006, may offer lower-division courses linked to specific majors in fields not addressed at local community colleges.	

UW Tacoma (cont.)	HECB recommendations	E2SHB 1794 – As passed House, 3/11/05	E2SHB 1794 – Changes approved 4/1/05, by Senate Ways and Means
Transition to four-year university	Gradually develop into a four-year metropolitan university as outlined in the self-study, with continued emphasis on upper-division transfer students.	Development into four-year university not addressed specifically, but implied in endorsement of university self-study plan. Bill does not use the term “metropolitan” university.	
Co-admission, co-enrollment and transfer admissions	Branches should establish and/or expand co-admission and co-enrollments with community colleges. Options should include transfer with as few as 45 credits.	UWT “shall” have co-admission and co-enrollment agreements with community colleges, and admit transfer students with as few as 45 credits.	Clarifies that students must have at least 45 “transferable” college credits.
UW Bothell			
Freshman-sophomore admissions	UWB should not admit freshman and sophomores at this time. HECB staff should study issue and report to board 12/05.	Admit freshman and sophomores per plan submitted to HECB. (Note: UWB plan calls for freshman admissions beginning fall 2006.)	Clarifies freshman/sophomore admissions are in addition to authority to offer lower-division courses.
Lower-division courses and programs	Offer lower-division courses linked to specific majors in fields not addressed by programs at Cascadia CC.	Beginning fall 2006, offer lower-division courses linked to specific majors in fields not addressed “at local community colleges.”	
Transition to four-year university	Should expand partnership with Cascadia CC and other two-year colleges instead of becoming four-year university.	Transition to four-year status not addressed specifically, but implied in endorsement of lower-division courses and freshman-sophomore admissions.	
Co-admission and co-enrollment	Branches should establish and/or expand co-admission and co-enrollment programs with community colleges.	Beginning fall 2006, may admit lower-division students through co-admission or co-enrollment agreements with community colleges, and admit transfer students with as few as 45 credits.	Clarifies that students must have at least 45 “transferable” college credits.

WSU Vancouver	HECB recommendations	E2SHB 1794 - As passed House, 3/11/05	E2SHB 1794 – Changes approved 4/1/05, by Senate Ways and Means
Transition to four-year university	Beginning fall 2006: -- Expand offerings at all academic levels, offer direct admission of freshmen and sophomores, and become four-year “metropolitan” university in WSU system. -- Consider admitting transfer students with as few as 45 quarter credits.	Same as HECB, except: Does not specifically address 45-credit transfer admissions or use the “metropolitan” university designation.	
WSU Tri-Cities			
Freshman-sophomore admissions	WSUTC should not admit freshman and sophomores at this time. HECB staff should study issue and report to board 12/05.	Freshmen and sophomores may be admitted only for a biotechnology degree program, subject to HECB approval.	Clarifies freshman/sophomore admissions are in addition to authority to offer lower-division courses.
Lower-division courses and programs	Expand availability of lower-division courses linked to specific majors not addressed at Columbia Basin College.	Beginning fall 2006, may offer lower-division courses linked to specific majors in fields not addressed at “local community colleges.”	
Transition to four-year university	Development into four-year university is not supported by projected enrollment demand at this time.	Not specifically addressed in the bill, but would be addressed by HECB study.	
Co-admission and co-enrollment	Branches should establish and/or expand co-admission and co-enrollment programs with community colleges. WSUTC should continue its successful partnership with Columbia Basin (Community) College in Pasco.	Continue providing “innovative” co-admission and co-enrollment options with Columbia Basin College. Transfer students may be admitted to WSUTC with as few as 45 credits.	Clarifies that students must have at least 45 “transferable” college credits.
Collaboration with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory	Partnership with PNNL should be further developed and expanded.	Same as HECB.	

Other issues	HECB recommendations	E2SHB 1794 – As passed House, 3/11/05	E2SHB 1794 – Changes approved 4/1/05, by Senate Ways and Means
CTC applied baccalaureate pilot project	HECB master plan describes applied baccalaureate programs at CTCs as one of many options for expanding production of four-year degrees.	SBCTC would select three community or technical colleges to develop applied baccalaureate degree programs, subject to HECB approval. Several selection criteria are outlined. Programs could not begin before fall 2006.	A total of four pilot projects would be offered, selected by the SBCTC and approved by the HECB. The Ways and Means Committee rejected an amendment by the P-16 committee that would have required one pilot project be at a technical college. SBCTC would be directed to include community and technical colleges in a task force to develop “objective selection criteria” for the pilot projects.
CTC contract with regional university	Not addressed	One community or technical college would be selected by SBCTC to receive enrollment funding to contract with a regional university for baccalaureate degree programs, not limited to applied degrees. The agreement would be subject to HECB approval.	Three community or technical colleges would be selected. HECB approval of the agreements would still be required.
North Snohomish Island Skagit Consortium (NSIS)	Not addressed	Would assign management and leadership of NSIS to Everett CC. Currently, WWU serves as fiscal agent. Everett CC would work with stakeholders to develop management and educational plan based on university center model, due 12/05.	
HECB monitoring	HECB staff would report to the board on freshman and sophomore admissions at UW Bothell and WSU Tri-Cities by 12/05.	HECB would monitor and evaluate the addition of lower-division students to the branches and ensure campuses follow state priorities. HECB also defines outcomes and develops performance measures for branches and makes progress reports beginning 12/08.	